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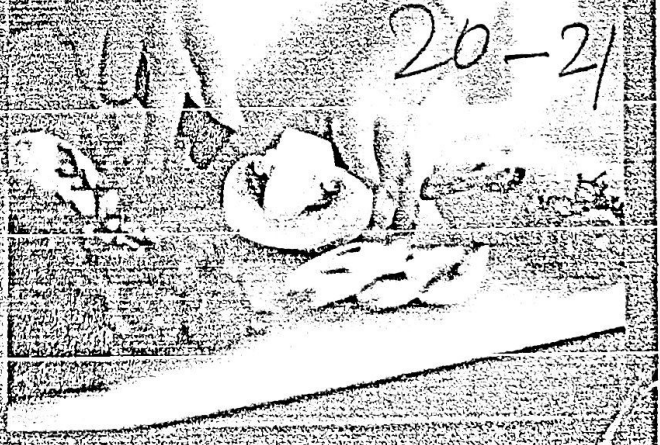
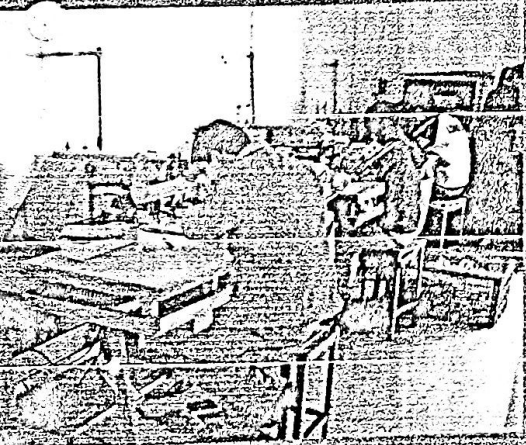
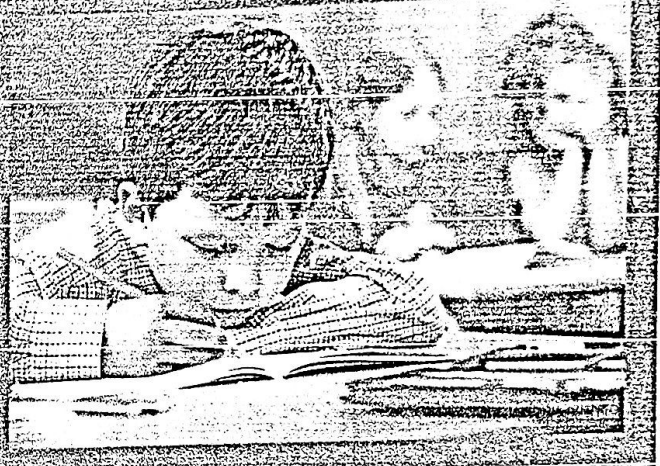
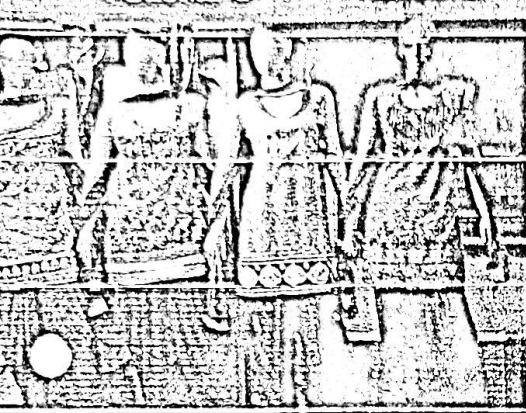
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A study on women's empowerment- through government industrial policies

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Abstract

In this paper different scheme of the central and some state government are given to empowerment of the women. These schemes are considered as additional resources to enhance traditional resources. The resources could be human resources such as labour, interests, ability, intellectual resources including information, ideas, and knowledge and material resources such as money financial resources and natural resources etc. A transformation in women life is observed from tradition to modernity, from informal resources etc. A transformation in women life is observed from tradition to modernity, from informal occupation to entrepreneurial avocation project. This investment on women and girls has shaped Opportunity's own strategies, tools and programs. Women who have been benefitted, from the formal economy to savings accounts and small loans through trust Groups, which were provided them with a network of support to earn a stable income and improve their livelihoods. This has leveraged them to access to technology so that even the most rural women can be a part of the global economy.

Keywords: Women empowerment, ladli laxmi yojna, swawlamban, mahila udyam nidhi

Introduction

A common understanding of empowerment is necessary, however, to allow us to know empowerment when we see it in people with whom we are working. According to Bailey (1992), how we precisely define empowerment within our projects and programs will depend upon the specific people and context involved. The term empowerment is frequently heard today all over the world. It is clearly connected to the word power. The term power in the context of human society means control over resources. The resources could be human resources such as labour, interests, ability, intellectual resources including information, ideas, and knowledge and material resources such as money financial resources and natural resources etc. Power is relational dynamic between individual or between groups of people and is often unequally distributed. many a time the domination is accompanied by exploration. Empowerment is the process of decision making, self decision making process. It is a process which is directly related to the power and to change of power i.e. the power of control of resources and concepts.

In this paper some of the policies of government of India, different states and NGOs are elaborated which are related to women empowerment only. Some states have made the separate department for this purpose while some others have made the separate wing in their already existing departments. In the first few paragraphs Central Government scheme for women empowerment is presented while in the next few paragraphs different state policies are presented. Finally the effect on women empowerment after implementing these policies through different agencies has been presented

A) Central government scheme for women empowerment

Gone are the days when Indian women were confined inside the homes. Now the times have changed in the favour of women to help them emerge as the leading entrepreneurs. For all the women who are filled with enthusiasm and ideas to generate revenue, the government of India has stepped up. It has brought together various schemes and plans to make sure these women entrepreneurs don't have to face the hassle of a capital. Out of the many schemes some most important schemes to help budding women entrepreneurs are mentioned in this paper to achieve the eventual goals.

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Annapurna scheme

The housewife is known for the delicacy she serves to her loved ones. But wouldn't it be great if this delicacy and food served to the ones away from home?

For an idea like that and the willingness to implement it, the Annapurna scheme is launched by the Government of Mysore. This scheme primarily aims at providing financial loans to women who are stepping into the business and need an upgrade for their kitchen. The cost of buying new utensils and required kitchen appliances are covered up under this scheme. The interest on this loan is decided by the prevailing market rate. It is one of the top 5 government schemes to help women entrepreneurs in the country.

Bhartiya Mahila Bank Business Loan

The bank was founded with the sole purpose of enabling underprivileged women who wanted to start their own business. For business ideas in the manufacturing sector, the bank was authorised to grant for women minds. If the business plan is falling under the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises, the Bhartiya Mahila Bank was authorised to provide a business loan.

From the manufacturing sector, this bank under the scheme to help women entrepreneurs, also provides loans for business set up in the retail sector, and many loans as well.

Mudra yojana scheme for women

This scheme is launched by the government of India to help an enthusiastic women entrepreneur who are seeking a business plan like starting a beauty parlour, tuition centre, a shop or any other that makes them financially stable with minimum efforts. Another feature of this scheme is that it aims at funding a business, now whether it is run by a single woman or a team of women, it is only up to the ladies coming together for a business. This scheme under the government of India does not require any collateral to grant the loan. However, there are categories under which a loan application can be filed. They are

Start-up loan: This loan is sanctioned when the business is in its initial stage.

Expansion loan: For the ones who already have established businesses but seek to improve their services, this loan is sanctioned. The amount of loan granted under this category is

Working capital loan: For the well-established businesses which are looking to expand their reach and are short on capital.

Another feature of this government scheme for helping women entrepreneurs is that there is a Mudra card which is issued to the applicant of the loan. This card functions as a credit card and has a limit of 10% of the total loan amount sanctioned.

Central Mahila Vikas yojana scheme

Out of the many schemes made available by the government, this scheme is designed to strengthen the woman in-charge and help her meet financial requirements to start her business. For a woman entrepreneur to avail loan under this scheme it is necessary for her to have a minimum of 51% shared in the

business. For the loan sanctioned, a 2% relaxation in the rate of interest is provided under this scheme. The loan issues are to be repaid within 7 years and this initiative was taken by the Oriental Bank of Commerce to help women entrepreneurs in India.

v) Udyogini scheme

This is one of the top schemes launched by the government of India to help bud the women entrepreneurs by asking for the least possible interest rates for the loan provided. For the women who fall in the age group of 18 years to 45 years can get loan sanctioned easily for starting their business. The main condition is that her family's yearly income should be within the under limit fixed by banks. However, this income limit is waived off in the case of a widow, disabled or destitute woman.

For women who are falling under the income limit waiver category or are under SC/ST category, they further get a subsidy of the sanctioned loan. For general category, a subsidy is less of the sanctioned loan amount is provided. This scheme was initially promoted by Punjab and Sind bank but later other banks like Karnataka Woman's State Development Corporation have joined hands and provide this loan to the future woman entrepreneur of the country. All these different schemes and plans have one thing in common that each of them is aimed at strengthening the women of the country. They have been designed and constructed keeping in mind the condition of the women who want to start their own business and rise high. Given all these efforts by the government of India to help to bud the women entrepreneurs has already helped a lot of them to live a life of pride and provide supports to each of them for the skill they have excelled in.

On the footsteps of the central government state governments also encouraging the women empowerment through their women centric policies. Some state policies are mentioned in this paper.

B) 1. Maharashtra

Maharashtra became the first state to make a provision for funds for the dedicated industrial policy for women. Under the policy, first-generation women entrepreneurs who set up micro, small or medium enterprises in the state would be entitled to a capital subsidy depending on location of the unit. Not only that 20 per cent land under the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation has been kept reserved for women entrepreneurs. The government aims to increase participation of women. Under the policy, the women-run businesses would be offered special concessions for locating their units, and extended lower power tariffs, higher interest subsidies, and grants for branding their products, among other incentives. For existing women-run enterprises, the fresh perks are provided in addition to those already offered under the universal package of incentives. To achieve this, women entrepreneurs will be given capital grants, electricity grants and gains on the loan interest.

2. Chhattisgarh: Women entrepreneurs in the Chhattisgarh State get incentives under Chhattisgarh Industrial Policy. The women founders receive 10 percent additional subsidy and 10 percent additional exemption in stamp duty, electricity duty, etc. The exemption is allowed for one more year for women beneficiaries. State may consider including specific incentives in the Start-up policy for encouraging women led Start-ups. Some of the women specific incentives could be in the form

networking support, has been designed to facilitate the

8) Orissa: Entrepreneurship Model for Women in Orissa: the profile In recent years, in the advent of socio-economic and cultural transformation, 'women' have emerged as a key contribution to the process of regional development. Through an active policy orientation, the planners of Orissa intend to empower women, affiliating them to the ambit of productive occupation. Devising ways of developing planned income generation activities / entrepreneurship, among women, particularly in rural sector. Women are regarded as key productive force for economic development. Given appropriate skills, opportunities of decision-making and environmental awareness, women can be a strong productive force in agriculture, industries and services.

9) Tamil Nadu: The local chapter of FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) has plans to create an industrial park exclusively for women entrepreneurs in Tamil Nadu. For that land has been earmarked for such parks on the footsteps of some other state. The local chapter would soon approach the State government seeking allotment of land for the project. With a vision to empower women, the organisation would provide training in driving, tailoring, non-teaching jobs in school and beautician, she said.

C) Conclusion

A transformation in women is observed from tradition to modernity, from informal occupation to entrepreneurial avocation project. This understanding of the value of investing in women and girls has shaped Opportunity's own strategies, tools and programs. Because we know that empowered women are key to ending extreme poverty, Opportunity is focused on providing tools and training that equip and empower women to thrive.

We connect women who have been excluded from the formal economy to savings accounts and small loans through Trust Groups, which provide them with a network of support to earn a stable income and improve their livelihoods. We leverage and increase access to technology so that even the most rural women can be a part of the global economy. Ultimately, we include women whose lives have been defined by exclusion. We provide access to the formal economy, to much needed tools and training and to financial services and education. And in so doing, we connect women to the world around them, giving them opportunities that were previously unimaginable. Because we know that women, when empowered, will change the world.

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